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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/681,042

10/07/2003

James Talaric

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EXAMINER

MILLS, DANIEL J

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/681,042	Applicant(s) TALARIC ET AL.	
	Examiner Daniel J. Mills	Art Unit 3679	<i>DJM</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8, 17-20 and 29-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 9-16 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/4/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Claims 4-8, 17-20, and 29-34 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), election was made with traverse. This application contains claims drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply filed on 7/11/2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 9-14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (US 6,024,261) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927).

Regarding claim 1, Tseng discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (31) formed at the joining end of a first limb member (30), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (32) formed therein, a socket portion (21) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (301), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (33) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received

by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member wherein the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion. Tseng fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber (into which 20 fits) extending into the first member from a slit (12A), a reversibly-compressible material (the spring) positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing (20) positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections (column 2 lines 32-35). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Tseng to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

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Regarding claim 2, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure wherein the tab is fixedly attached to the second limb member.

Regarding claim 3, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 9, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge (this is shown in Figure 1 with such edges being at h and g).

Regarding claim 10, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 11, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 12, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure which forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 13, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin. Rice teaches the use of a joint of this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 14, Tseng in view of Rice results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit (this is shown in any of the Figures).

Claims 15, 16, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (US 6,024,261) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927) and Harris (US 3,383,962).

Regarding claim 15, Tseng discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (31) formed at the-joining end of a first limb member (30), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (32) formed therein, a socket portion (21) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (301), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (33) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member wherein the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion. Tseng fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Tseng to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

Tseng fails to disclose a tab having one or more surface depressions.

Harris teaches the use of a tab (18) having one or more surface depressions (24), for the purpose of allowing detent engagement to retain a selected positions of the limb members (11 and 17). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Tseng to include surface depressions in the tab, for the purpose of retaining selected positions of the limb members as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 16, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 21, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Regarding claim 22, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.

Regarding claim 23, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 24, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 25, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure. Rice teaches the use of a joint of this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 26, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein said joint structure forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 27, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure, in which a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

Regarding claim 28, Tseng in view of Rice and Harris results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Claims 15, 16, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (US 6,024,261) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927) and Berman (US 5,800,243).

Regarding claim 15, Tseng discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (31) formed at the-joining end of a first limb member (30), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (32) formed therein, a socket portion (21) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (301), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (33) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member wherein the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion. Tseng fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned

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at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Tseng to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

Tseng fails to disclose a tab having one or more surface depressions.

Berman teaches the use of a tab (29) having one or more surface depressions (41), for the purpose of allowing detent engagement to retain a selected positions of the limb members and produce sound when the limbs are moved. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Tseng to include surface depressions in the tab, for the

purpose of retaining selected positions of the limb members and produce sound when the limbs are moved as taught by Berman.

Regarding claim 16, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 21, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Regarding claim 22, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.

Regarding claim 23, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 24, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 25, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure. Rice teaches the use of a joint of this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 26, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein said joint structure forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 27, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

Regarding claim 28, Tseng in view of Rice and Berman results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Claims 1-3, 9-14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders (US 235,300) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927) and Tseng (US 6,024,261).

Regarding claim 1, Sanders discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (e) formed at the-joining end of a first limb member (a), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (A) formed therein, a socket portion (d) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (b), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (B) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member. Sanders fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber (into which 20 fits) extending into the first member from a slit (12A), a reversibly-compressible material (the spring) positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing (20) positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections (column 2 lines 32-35). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Sanders to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

Sanders fails to disclose that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion.

Tseng teaches a joint structure in which the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion (21) and the surface of the ball portion (31) is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention

to modify the arrangement of Sanders such that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members as taught by Tseng.

Regarding claim 2, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the tab is fixedly attached to the second limb member.

Regarding claim 3, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 9, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge (this is shown in Figure 1 with such edges being at h and g).

Regarding claim 10, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 11, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 12, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure which forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 13, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin. Rice teaches the use of a joint of

this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 14, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit (this is shown in any of the Figures).

Claims 15, 16, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders (US 235,300) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927) and Harris (US 3,383,962) and Tseng (US 6,024,261).

Regarding claim 15, Sanders discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (e) formed at the-joining end of a first limb member (a), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (A) formed therein, a socket portion (d) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (b), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (B) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member. Sanders fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said

chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Sanders to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

Sanders fails to disclose a tab having one or more surface depressions.

Harris teaches the use of a tab (18) having one or more surface depressions (24), for the purpose of allowing detent engagement to retain a selected positions of the limb members (11 and 17). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Sanders to include surface depressions in the tab, for the purpose of retaining selected positions of the limb members as taught by Harris.

Sanders fails to disclose that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion.

Tseng teaches a joint structure in which the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion (21) and the surface of the ball portion (31) is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Sanders such that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members as taught by Tseng.

Regarding claim 16, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 21, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Regarding claim 22, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.

Regarding claim 23, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 24, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 25, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure. Rice teaches the use of a joint of this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 26, Sanders in view of Rice and Tseng results a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein said joint structure forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 27, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure, in which a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

Regarding claim 28, Sanders in view of Rice and Harris and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Claims 15, 16, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders (US 235,300) in view of Rice (US 2,108,927) and Berman (US 5,800,243) and Tseng (US 6,024,261).

Regarding claim 15, Sanders discloses a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising a ball portion (e) formed at the-joining end of a first limb member (a), the ball portion having a surface and a slit (A) formed therein, a socket portion (d) formed at the joining end of a second limb member (b), the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab (B) attached thereto said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and pivotally attached to said first limb member. Sanders fails to disclose a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

Rice teaches the use of a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab (see Figure 7) which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections. Accordingly, it would have been

obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention, to modify the arrangement of Sanders to include a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab which comprises an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from a slit, a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber, and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab, for the purpose of assisting in the retention of the adjustment of the leg sections as taught by Rice.

Sanders fails to disclose a tab having one or more surface depressions.

Berman teaches the use of a tab (29) having one or more surface depressions (41), for the purpose of allowing detent engagement to retain a selected positions of the limb members and produce sound when the limbs are moved. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Sanders to include surface depressions in the tab, for the purpose of retaining selected positions of the limb members and produce sound when the limbs are moved as taught by Berman.

Sanders fails to disclose that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion.

Tseng teaches a joint structure in which the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion (21) and the surface of the ball portion (31) is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members. Accordingly, it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the arrangement of Sanders such that the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion for the purpose of allowing secure sliding engagement between the limb members as taught by Tseng.

Regarding claim 16, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

Regarding claim 21, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Regarding claim 22, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.

Regarding claim 23, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

Regarding claim 24, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

Regarding claim 25, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure. Rice teaches the use of a joint of this type in a mannequin for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned. Accordingly, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention, to use this joint in a mannequin as taught by Rice for the purpose of allowing the mannequin to be positioned.

Regarding claim 26, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein said joint structure forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle (a knee joint is clearly shown).

Regarding claim 27, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

Regarding claim 28, Sanders in view of Rice and Berman and Tseng results in a joint structure wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment (claim 1 lines 10-12 and claim 15 lines 10-12), necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Mills whose telephone number is 571-272-8115. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

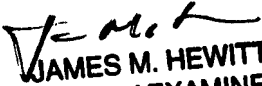
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJM

DJM
8/14/2007


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER